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http://www.kokomotribune.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-three-cheers-for-recycling/article_338a38be-4dc6-11e5-b86b-f39e665bce49.html

Editorial: Three cheers for recycling

For a while there, things were looking pretty dire for the future of recycling in Howard County.

As Tribune reporter George Myers wrote, after voting July 16 to remove recycling bins in nine locations within Kokomo city limits, the Howard County Recycling District board reversed its decision Aug. 18. Instead, bins will be removed at just four of the proposed locations: Indiana University Kokomo, Kokomo High School, Ivy Tech Community College and Kokomo Street Department.

Accounting for almost three-quarters of all collections, the five other locations that were slated to be removed — Cedar Crest subdivision, Indian Heights Fire Department, Kmart, Marsh Supermarket and Sam's Club — now will remain.

This is an encouraging step, but we're not out of the woods yet. The recycling district's financial projections are far from rosy, as more money still is set to go out than come in during the next few months. Added to that, the city's 2016 budget has capped recycling expenditures at \$150,000.

We mustn't lose hope, however, as the planned Dec. 1 implementation of curbside recycling is but a few months away. If all goes as planned, this will be a critical step in our transition to a sustainable future.

Our community must maintain its commitment to recycling. We cannot allow our waste to be disposed of in the manner in which we've become accustomed. Any of us of who have children have more than enough motivation to push for this. The continued wanton use of our finite resources will lead to our ultimate ruin without drastic change in our lifetimes. We can't keep living in a disposable, one-time-use world if we have any chance of handing the next generation a shot at a bright future.